

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin Good Times.

Bring back Terania Shire

The shire that welcomed the Aquarius Festival is long gone and un lamented, even forgotten by some locals.

The May edition of NGT is filled with news of the area's many democratically run clubs and societies, so how about honouring grass-roots democracy by setting up a local senate-type Terania High Council, with a representative from each democratic entity in the former Terania Shire?

This would include, of course, the original multiple occupancy at Tuntable Falls, and all the others that have followed their example, with a president from the local First Nation.

If you don't have democracy, what do you have?

James Hill
Coopers Plains, Qld

Night lights

Thank you to the person or people who switched off the outside lights at the Showgrounds after the letter in a past issue.

I am heartened to know that I live in a community where the preferences of people and other wildlife are considered.

Lea Harrison
Nimbin

Creation lore

Aboriginal Creation Lore is the official site for the Origine peoples of this land. The beginning of the Acheringa is on the East coast of Australia.

The good people of the greater Nimbin community, and good deeds towards the earth mother, do not go by without notice.

Granny (Rainbow Serpent) and I feel it necessary for the *Nimbin GoodTimes* to give credit for outstanding Earth citizenship.

The Nimbin community already knows of the corruption of the patriarch governance. We are dealing with a spiritual crime of mammoth proportions across the length and breadth of our good planet.

The Paigals (humans) involved have reached their use-by date and lost.

Lyn Bugal Wena Close
aboriginalcreationlore.com

Deaths in custody

I agree with Senator Lidia Thorpe and others, that after 30 years and recommendations into deaths in custody, absolutely nothing has been done, with no prosecutions of anyone either.

This is an indictment of all past and present state and federal regimes. It looks to me that the justice system doesn't care, and black lives don't matter here in Australia.

The electoral system allows for Indigenous people to vote and run as candidates – what's needed is more Indigenous people in power, because at the moment we are all living under colonial rule and British law, and that has to change.

The only way that can happen is by people power. The people need to take their power back and change the systems that are keeping us under the yoke of human greed.

Power to the people.

Paul Brecht
Evans Head

Support for rail trail

It's festival season in our region, and how wonderful it was to see so many people at Beef Week in Casino recently.

Later this month Lismore's magical Lantern Parade comes to Lismore and in August it's the Byron Writers Festival.

One thing that connects all three events is the NR Rail Trail.

At Casino, the support for the Rail Trail was incredible, with not only many members of the public coming to the NRRT stall to express support, but Mayor Robert Mustow reiterating Richmond Valley Council's eagerness to progress the Casino to Bentley section. The people of Bentley are also getting ready to become part of the Trail.

The Lismore Showgrounds, the site of this year's Lantern Parade, is on the Trail too and the opening of the Trail will be a wonderful car-free option for many to access the myriad of events that occur at that site.

Along the way, the relocated Harris Cycles and the new Two Mates Brewing are just two local businesses that are perfectly located to benefit from the Trail usage.

Eventually, the Trail to Byron will provide fabulous access to the Writers Festival too.

Our region is all about the connections between people and communities. The Rail Trail will enhance that connectedness in the healthiest way possible. Bring it on.

Jenny Dowell
Goonellabah



Rail trail to be a crowning jewel

Slowly but surely, after 17 long years of sad disuse, our poor lonely rail corridor is about to be brought back into the community consciousness.

But it will be even better than ever before, as we'll all get to see views that only the train drivers of that lost era used to see, plus we'll get the breezes on our faces and the sounds of nature without any motor noise.

The freedom of meandering through some of our most beautiful landscapes, at our very own paces, and stopping for picnic breaks at whim, along the easy and gentle gradients, whilst admiring the magnificent rail building achievements of all those 127 years ago.

Yes, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail will certainly be a blast, connecting the old world with modern runners, bikes, trikes, e-bikes and the odd horse or two along the way.

These 130 kilometres will eventually add a major and delightfully surprising dimension to being a local, that would otherwise have been unattainable.

A crowning jewel throughout our four shires, to complement our stunning beaches and coastline.

Tim Shanasy
Byron Bay

Rail trail win-win

"Trains are going to be part of the future," says Mandy Nolan (NGT May 21, p4), but how far in the future is that realistically going to be, if ever, on the Casino to Murwillumbah corridor?

Byron Shire's own Arcadis consultant report states that the "condition, alignment and grades make the corridor unsuitable for high or medium speed heavy rail solutions," but would be restricted only to vehicles of maximum 10-tonne axle load. The whole line would need to be pulled up and rebuilt.

The "win/win" claim of those still dreaming of a train with a rail trail alongside, is but a ploy to stop the rail trail project altogether. If they can't have it, no one will! That is the lose/lose option for our community, and will put the corridor at risk of sell-off.

Sadly, no Government is even considering funding for a train or light rail along this corridor, and putting the trail alongside an overgrown and derelict line that will need to be maintained will merely add substantial costs for Council (read ratepayers) to cover.

The real win/win was the wording in the legislation to close the line for recreational purposes, that ensured that the corridor could be returned to TfNSW if there was indeed the political will to reinstate some form of public transport in the future.

So let's re-purpose this amazingly beautiful corridor now into a world-class asset that the local community can enjoy everyday and that will attract visitors to our region and maybe, in the future, we will still have a corridor to use for transport purposes.

Glenys Ritchie
Lismore

Plague proportions

As we look back on the last 250 years, rather than look bemused at these random acts, and how we had to tame this wayward land, that was throwing all sorts of misfortune at us, that we couldn't possibly know (unless we had read *The Biggest Estate on Earth* by Bill Gammage) how it hadn't always been beset with strife, and in fact white man was managing it, rather than bringing the cause of it, his profit/debt driven terra forming along Western principles.

Even now, acknowledging past errors, even current errors is nigh impossible because dialogue is couched

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Community School Co-op will hold its AGM on Tuesday 22nd June at 5.30pm in the Community School Room at Nimbin Community Centre. All current and prospective members welcome.

For Sale – Car

Regularly serviced 1999 Subaru Forester 2.0 ltr 4-gear automatic. Great car, doesn't miss a beat. Few chips of paint off. All big jobs done: timing belt, water pump, radiator hoses, front and back brake pads. New tyres last year. Rego due Aug 20. Sale price \$3,200 neg. Phone 0414-538-011.

Tearooms volunteers wanted

Red Cross Lismore is looking for willing helpers to volunteer in our Lismore Tea Rooms, and would welcome your support on one or two days a month. The Tea Rooms in Keen Street are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm, and we are in need of your help to work a three or six hour shift. We are a not-for-profit organisation and approved voluntary work provider. If you are able to help or would like more information, please message the Lismore Red Cross Branch/Tearooms on their Facebook page or phone 6621-7642.

New publication dates

NGT is now being published on Mondays instead of Fridays, due to a change in arrangements with our printer. Details of our new deadlines for the rest of the year are available on our Facebook page.

Free notices

Keep it short, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for free.

in Western ideals of job creation, feeding the family or GDP, such that fires around sawmills are because we don't burn often enough, shortage of water after decades of using too much, is just the weather, millions of sheep dying is needing financial assistance to farmers, not how really weird it is to have woolly mammals in the outback, not how weird it is to have billions of mice around piles of barley on the ground (to feed grain to cows), but how can we make the world's worst poison to make them bleed to death on the inside, so fixated on farming are we the logic of destruction doesn't seem to register.

Because we have 26 million that need money, so this is the way we farm, this is all justified, is it?

Say we had 30 million, would that justify ever more extreme and cruel farming practices? It is indeed a

bizarre way to behave, accusing other species of plague proportions, yet not seeing that the kettle is black.

Will Goode
Lismore

Sabre-rattling

The Morrison government is talking openly of war with China.

It's likely Morrison believes our much lauded ANZAC spirit will win him the next election. He maybe envisions the celebration of another defeat, such as ANZAC was and so too Vietnam, doltishly forgetting the awfulness of both.

A war with China? Why not? Observing the snarling dog fight of politics in Canberra, one suspects a love of warfare, a yearning for the blood, the maiming, a nostalgia for killing... this is what our political masters are foreshowing.

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 25th June

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Chamber steps up with tourism initiatives

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has started working on implementing activities associated with our tourism grant and we would appreciate your help and input.

If you have information or are interested in any of the elements below, contact our project co-ordinator Steph Seckold: sibley@nmc.org.au

Nimbin on the web

We are looking for 40 local businesses or community organisations to appear on the Chamber of Commerce and VisitNimbin websites.

Priority will be given to businesses and community organisations that offer services, events, products or information that would interest visitors.

A professional photo shoot will be conducted for each business chosen.

An important element of this includes building up an accommodation data base for visitors following the permanent closure of several as a consequence of Covid.

There is no point encouraging people to stay in our village longer if there's nowhere for them to stay.

If you are a local accommodation provider (AirBnB, guest house, farmstay, cabins, camping, Wwoofer supporter, etc.) we would love to hear from you.

Nimbin village signs

Are you an artist or graphic designer who would like to be engaged in the signage aspect of our grant funding



Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

or assist in designing brochures etc?

We have funds to pay artists and are keen to utilise our extraordinary local talent pool.

About Nimbin Brochure

What information do you think visitors need to know? We are developing maps and brochures, so share your thoughts. We have lots of ideas but it's so easy to overlook things.

All suggestions will be considered and appreciated.

Nimbin Roots Festival

The 5th annual Nimbin Roots Festival is planned for September 11 and 12 at venues throughout Nimbin village. On the Friday night there will be the Australian Roots Music Awards – a gala style, red carpet event including a concert featuring the Hussy Hicks. Entry to this event will be free. For more info and to book tickets to the festival go to: www.nrfest.com

Currently Nimbin Roots Festival are seeking staff for the event – 12 hours paid work (2 x 6-hour shifts) plus a free festival pass.

If you are interested send your resume or references to: nimbinrootsfest@gmail.com Volunteers before and during the event will also be very welcome. Six hours volunteering will get you a free ticket.

Nimbin Aquarius Festival 50th Anniversary

The Chamber has engaged with the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation to plan for celebrating 50 years of post-Aquarian Nimbin. The Festival will run from 12th to 21st May 2023, so there's lots of time to plan.

Organised and funded by the Australian Union of Students, the 1973 Aquarius Festival changed the village of Nimbin and the surrounding Northern Rivers region forever. Attended by those at the forefront of the counterculture and alternative lifestyles movement in Australia, the Festival was a ten-day music, arts, and cultural gathering of like-minded people, some of whom still live in and around Nimbin.

The Chamber sees this as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many achievements and values of the alternative lifestyle movement. Ideas that seemed radical at the time have now become mainstream.

Too numerous to go into them all here, our legacy in raising environmental awareness and the importance of sustainability

is legendary. The continuum of new-age businesses like Rainbow Power Company are testament to the ideals being espoused at the time.

The amazing arts community the festival spawned thrives in the Northern Rivers. The extensive network of land-sharing communities and co-operatives that assist to provide affordable housing for many in our community give us a community resilience and cohesiveness it's hard to find elsewhere.

There are many aging hippies out there who would undoubtedly love an opportunity to come together and reminisce. So, start thinking about what you might like to contribute to a 10-day celebration that showcases all that we value.

Council elections

The Chamber is organising an opportunity for community members to meet and question people running for Lismore Council. The Council elections are on 4th September.

Our Meet the Candidates evening will be held on 18th August in the village. We will provide more information closer to the time, but if you'd like to attend, mark the date in your diary.

It's important not to waste your vote, and getting to know the candidates (you're voting for 10 councillors plus the mayor) and what they stand for is vital. Not only does the Chamber

want to see our villages have a louder voice on Council, we also want to ensure economic development initiatives truly reflect local needs throughout the area.

Aquarius Park

The Nimbin Community Centre is slowly reducing its financial commitment to acquiring 11a Alternative Way. As treasurer of that organisation, it's a relief to see funds slowly trickling in.

While many individuals and community organisations have contributed generously, indicative of the resilience and resourcefulness of the Nimbin community, I would like to use this column to extend my personal gratitude to the businesses that have donated.

Apart from the significant contribution made by Rainbow Power Co, I wish to publicly acknowledge generous contributions from the following businesses: Uri Ross Realty, Nimbin Hills Real Estate, Nimbin Building Materials, Nimbin Candles, Armonica Cafe, Teretre Cabins, Nimbin GoodTimes, Nimbin Law, Topical Hemp Cream, Funky Corner and the Rainbow Lane developers.

The past 18 months have not been easy for local businesses, making your contributions even more valued. Developing 11a Alternative Way into a community park will be dependent on community volunteerism and local

financial support. If you are a business still planning to donate to buying this property, please do so as soon as possible.

Community organisations that have donated generously to date are Nimbin Aged Care, Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Environment Centre, Nimbin A&I Society, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Artists Gallery and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. A big thank you to everyone who has dug deep for this exciting project.

Tourism and budget

The Chamber is making a detailed submission to Council for funds to be delivered directly to Nimbin for provision of tourism services for our village.

Following withdrawal of Council support in this area last year much of the Chamber's efforts over the past 12 months have been directed to replacement options.

We are pleased that Council has recognised this is an important activity for them to fund and engage with, but we would like our village to determine how funding is best spent, the focus of our submission. I will update you on outcomes in the next issue.

If you have anything you would like to bring to the attention of your local Chamber of Commerce please email us: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au

On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP



Kevin Hogan discusses the Budget papers with Treasurer Josh Frydenberg

Economic recovery continues

The 2021-22 Federal Budget was presented recently.

Australia is the only developed economy in the world where there are more people employed today, than there were before the pandemic. We are the third fastest growing economy in the world.

Australia's unemployment rate has dropped from 7.5% to 5.5%, consumer confidence is at a 12-year high, and job advertisements are at their highest in two decades.

This budget continues to outline our Economic Recovery Plan.

Key announcements included

tax relief for more than 10 million Australians; extending the Instant Asset Write-Off; \$17.7 billion for aged care; \$1.7 billion investment in childcare; and \$2.3 billion for mental health.

It also included \$351.6 million in women's health and well-being measures, \$1.1 billion for women's safety, and \$1.9 billion to support women's economic security and leadership.

A further \$110 billion for infrastructure, funding for 170,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships, \$486 million in new environmental funding for oceans,

biodiversity, waste and recycling, and climate resilience and a record Commonwealth funding of \$24.1 billion in 2021-22 for all Australian schools.

We have committed \$145.3 million for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides, \$124.7 million for states and territories to meet their social and community housing responsibilities and an additional \$13.2 billion to further support the NDIS.

Go Team Australia. We are leading the world on both a health and an economic front.

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Sustainable Future Party offers Nimbin candidate

Our Sustainable Future party has announced that Councillor Elly Bird is running to be the next mayor of Lismore City Council.

“As Mayor, I would lead our community to face our challenges head-on, focusing on working together with councillors, staff and our community, to find practical, positive and sustainable solutions,” said Councillor Bird.

During her five years in office, Elly Bird led the community flood recovery response with Lismore Helping Hands, supported the community through the bushfires, consistently advocated for local businesses, and has driven Council’s focus on climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

“It’s been a difficult term with floods, fires, and the pandemic. I will focus on positive plans to address Council’s infrastructure maintenance challenges, waste management challenges and to right Council’s financial management issues.

“I’m running with a strong team of long-term residents, with Gwen Trimble from Nimbin as my number two. We are aiming to have Gwen elected as a sorely-needed Nimbin representative – Nimbin hasn’t had a community-based Councillor on Council since 2004, which is a travesty for our largest village.”

“Gwen is an active community member in Nimbin, she is a member of Lismore Council’s Nimbin Advisory Group; actively campaigned against coal seam gas mining; and drove the campaign for Nimbin’s rural water consumers to retain their town water supply.”

Other people on the Our Sustainable Future ticket are Carlos Vieira-Silva and Deborah Ray, who are both business owners in the Lismore CBD; Jyllie Jackson, the driving force behind the Lismore Lantern Parade; and Simon Clough, previous Deputy Mayor and long-term community campaigner.

Elly Bird said, “I was elected to Council after five years working on the successful campaign to make the Northern Rivers Gasfield Free. Since then I’ve proven that I am an active and responsive Councillor. I am diligent and committed. I show up, I work hard, and I listen.

“I have the balance of experience and passion required to lead a new Council with many new faces following the upcoming election. I have the skills, the dedication and the commitment to be the next Mayor of Lismore, and I am looking forward to engaging with our community to collaboratively develop the way forward for Lismore and our villages.”



by Cr Vanessa Ekens,
Mayor, Lismore City Council

Housing, housing, housing is the new catchcry on locals’ lips, and even in the national media.

How did we get to a situation where tourists can holiday in comfort but families cannot find homes to live in when they belong to this community?

Everyone should be entitled to a safe place to live, yet there are not enough rentals, investors are buying up houses

Committee to oversee DAs

and increasing prices, and developers are trying to jam more houses on to each lot.

We need housing but we also need to discuss what new housing looks like and where it goes.

For example, dual occupancy is allowed in our rural and village zones and the number of applications for two houses where one was planned are increasing rapidly. Building more houses is supposed to be good, but what effect does it have on the vibe of the street?

The Nimbin Advisory Group raised this emerging issue at the May meeting and Lismore Councillors have too, and we now have a Council planning committee that views and questions development applications.

Normally development applications are determined by staff unless they are deemed significant, or two Councillors call them up for a

decision in the Council chamber. This planning committee is an important change and means we can get a feel for what is happening and direct policy for better on-ground outcomes.

Your Councillors are also focussed on affordable housing. We are talking with community housing agencies, developers, builders, real estate agents and state government about barriers to and incentives for building smaller homes and medium density homes.

An affordable housing strategy means we can identify land for affordable housing and collect contributions from developers to ensure it is built. New housing needs to be well designed and efficient to live in, but also meet the needs of our existing community and not just satisfy investors.

I am confident we can do it.

Contact Vanessa on 0417-245-502 or email: vanessa.ekins@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Lantern Parade reflects community values

I want to talk in this edition about values. I sat down to write this article and while there are many things happening on the Lismore Council front as always, values are what I really feel called to write about.

Readers may know that amongst other things in my life I have, for a very long time, been involved with the Lismore Lantern Parade. It is the reason I moved to this area. I worked full time for the event for more than ten years, and now I still work with Jyllie Jackson and her team once a year directing the fiery finale that happens after the parade.

In a pre-Covid world, I also directed the welcome ceremony at the Woodford Folk Festival. It’s my profession and my passion – large-scale outdoor community theatre – and I’ve been doing it for more than 20 years.

Last year, like every other event, the lantern parade didn’t happen and LightnUp, the organisation that produces the event, has struggled to stay afloat. This year in a few short weeks on 19th June it is on again, in a Covid-controlled environment at the Lismore Showground. It’s exciting and I’m really looking forward to enjoying our community tradition of lanterns and fire in the middle of winter.

Now, I don’t want to get into the details, but in the last few weeks a couple of individuals in our community have been attacking the Lismore Lantern Parade on social media and stirring up all sorts of trouble. They may deny it, but they are doing so because of my association with the event, and it is political – it is also unethical,



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

unnecessary and completely out of line.

The Lantern Parade is a well-loved institution in our community that brings us together to celebrate and enjoy the very things that make our community unique. It has been going strong for 27 years, it needs our support as we recover from the impacts of Covid and it is absolutely unconscionable that these people have decided that for their own political purposes it is fair game to target it.

Beyond the Lantern Parade, they are also making noises about targeting other community groups and initiatives that I have been part of, or that they think I am associated with. This appalling behaviour brings me back to values. I believe our community is truly unique – we have a whole-hearted approach to inclusivity, diversity and acceptance.

We care about our environment and we care about each other. We come together to collaborate, we come together to celebrate and we come together to protect our community when we need to.

These are the same values we

demonstrated during our successful campaigns against CSG and at the Bentley Blockade; they are the same values we demonstrated in our community response to the floods and to the bushfires. They are the same values that we are witnessing at the moment in the community campaign supporting the Widjabin-Wiabul against the proposed Dunoon Dam.

So, it is beyond disappointing to witness some people who are part of this community displaying behaviour that is so clearly in opposition to the values that make us special and make us strong. It’s likely that their divisive and anti-community tactics will continue and perhaps escalate in the coming months as the Council election progresses, and that is the biggest disappointment of all.

As a community, we should focus on what unites us, what improves us, what supports us and what we can do together to benefit our whole community. I know that those are the values that are important to me, and that I will always focus on no matter what negativity is thrown my way.

I hope you will join me and many many other people in our community celebrating our shared values at the Lismore Lantern Parade on 19th June. Tickets are on sale now at: www.lismorelanternparade.com.au or you can use your Dine & Discover vouchers in person at Music Bizarre on Magellan Street or Curious Kookaburra on Keen Street. Please come along and support this iconic event.

I can be contacted on 0418-639-927 or at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au



SAVE OUR SOIL



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MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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THE GREENS

Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina.
Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

Rural Health Inquiry's Lismore hearing to be webcast

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

NSW Labor has ensured that the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW's Lismore hearing on Thursday 17th June will be webcast.

This is a good win because all locals, including residents of Nimbin and surrounding areas, need to have access to their Parliament and its processes.

I lobbied for this Inquiry to sit in our Electorate of Lismore and it is important that as many people as possible get to hear testimony from individuals and organisations who made submissions about their experience of the health system.

The Inquiry was established on 16 September 2020 to inquire into and report on health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales. It has received more than 700 submissions from people across NSW.

Live stream details: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx

Housing Action Forum draws on providers' expertise

I recently hosted a forum of peak housing providers in a renewed effort to tackle the acute social and affordable housing crisis gripping our region.

This was my second major forum on housing and homelessness, which aimed to draw on providers' expertise in the sector.

We agreed that, even though some providers are undertaking innovative projects in their own right, everyone will keep advocating for the same thing from governments – housing infrastructure.

Housing is a desperate human need for an increasing number of local people who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness in our Electorate of Lismore and neighbouring coastal areas, across the State and nationwide.

Represented at the Housing Action Forum were North Coast Community Housing, Social Futures, Momentum Collective, Northern Rivers Community Gateway, Homes North Community Housing Limited (Tenterfield), St Vincent de Paul Society, BaptistCare, Anglicare North Coast, The Winsome, CASPA, Australian Red Cross and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.

Power poles 'gifted' by stealth

I'm calling on NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro, who leads the Nationals in Government, to reverse the NSW Government's policy of 'gifting' private power poles to farmers and rural landholders.

I have moved a motion in Parliament condemning this



Lismore MP Janelle Saffin and Lismore Mayor Vanessa Elkins joined housing providers for the Housing Action Forum at Lismore Workers Club.

unconscionable policy where the corporatised Essential Energy shifts the legal and cost burden of fixing faulty private poles and overhead lines to thousands of country people across NSW.

I'm stepping up my campaign against the policy as more outraged landholders are coming to me after being notified that they are the proud owners of one or more power poles and face maintenance costs of up to \$7000 per pole to make them safe.

Responding to a series of questions on notice from me late last year, NSW Minister for Energy Matt Kean confirmed that Essential Energy had written to 699 landholders in the Lismore

Electorate since June 2018 to inform them of their obligations.

Of these landholders, 414 of them had been informed by Essential Energy that a routine inspection had identified maintenance requirements on private poles or private overhead lines.

Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4

A reminder to the Nimbin community that applications for funding under the NSW Government's \$100-million Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4 close on on Friday, 25th June.

I welcome Round 4's strong emphasis on increasing

participation in women's sport, with \$50 million dedicated to projects that enhance female sporting facilities and increase female participation in sport on the Northern Rivers.

The remaining \$50 million in funding is available for other local community and sporting infrastructure, street beautification, and community programs and local events.

More information on Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4 is available from: nsw.gov.au/SCCF or by contacting the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW): scf.enquiries@regional.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300-679-673.



by Cr Darlene Cook,
Lismore City Council

It's the season for preparing budgets for the next year and planning the projects Lismore Council will commit to complete in the next 12 months.

At the May meeting, the draft budget and operational plan were approved to go out on public exhibition for community comment and feedback. It is extremely important that councillors hear from the community on items you object to, or projects you may want included in the budget, because if you don't put in a submission during the exhibition period, we cannot amend the budget to include your idea.

Council's draft budget on display for feedback

Council's budget and operational plan will be on exhibition until 7th June. To have your say go to: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/2021-22-operational-plan-and-budget>

Of interest to Nimbin residents will be the replacement of Hensen Bridge at a cost of \$520,000 and Gungas Road bridge at \$943,800. Stage 2 of the upgrade of the Nimbin water supply is expected to be built at a cost of \$3.3 million.

Included in the budget is \$30,000 for a co-ordinator for the Covid-safe team keeping the Nimbin pool open during next summer. There are also funds towards tourism and visitor information services: the detail of how those funds will be spent will be a matter of discussion between Council and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and Nimbin Advisory Group.

Also on public exhibition is

the revised Concealed Water Leaks Policy. Councillors believed the previous policy did not reflect our intention that the policy provide genuine assistance to residents who, through no fault of their own, have a large excess water bill caused by an undetected concealed underground break in their water lines.

This revised policy will assist residents with a refund of up to 50% of the excess water above normal usage. You can comment on this policy until 23rd June at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-development-control-review>

Nimbin water security

At the Nimbin Advisory Group meeting on the 27th May, it was suggested that a water security plan for Nimbin be developed. We know that the village has a limited supply of fresh water which may restrict future

development in the area.

While in a normal year there are no concerns about the water supply, Council has to consider the very worst case scenario of a multi-year drought and how that will impact the village and rural residents who rely on the village water storage.

The need for secure water for the village also means that council and the community should consider a review of the Growth Management Strategy for the Nimbin area and reconsider whether it is still appropriate that some of the lands currently zoned for residential expansion remain in that category.

Many people are also concerned that expansion of the village and the dual occupancies being approved on some blocks, plus the larger rural residential developments going on just outside the village, may change the character of the

village. It is suggested that the Nimbin Development Control Plan should be reviewed as a matter of some urgency.

If you agree with the idea that we need to take a new look at the future development in the area, then please let your councillors know, or talk to your Chamber of Commerce.

Rous water strategy

Rous Councils' Future Water Strategy consultation is now closed. Both sides of the argument about the proposed new dam at Dunoon have been very active, and councillors have been swamped by submissions from the public, both for and against. Numerous petitions will be delivered to Rous offices in the next days.

In the next weeks, an independent consultant will count, assess and review the submissions and a report will be brought to the Rous

workshop in June, before a final decision on the strategy, in the light of these submissions, will occur at the 21st July Council meeting.

If you wish to speak at that meeting, please contact Rous and book in to have your voice heard on the day.

Council elections

I have been endorsed as the Country Labor candidate for mayor at the Lismore Council elections on 4th September. There will be a formal launch of the Country Labor ticket in the next weeks.

I am very pleased that four members of my team live in rural areas, in Dorrroughby, Repentance Creek, Boorie Creek and Goolmangar, and can ensure that their local villages and communities have a voice on council.

I can be contacted by phone on 0427-895-316 or email: darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au



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Global warming is as real as you and I

by Bernadine Schwartz

How can you convince people that we're killing a planet and facing extinction head on, when their beliefs are more powerful than the mountain of evidence before them?

And made all the easier when they can promote falsehoods through the internet, where hearsay can become fact and Chinese whispers go viral. Then the next thing you know, it's the gospel truth.

I certainly don't believe in a squeaky clean world, and I'm far from being naïve, but I just can't go for global warming being nothing more than a conspiracy. The whole thrust of this argument is that scientists are secretly conspiring with governments, manipulating data, and distorting and inventing the facts for financial and ideological reasons.

The problem here is opinions can be swayed but beliefs, that's another story.

Dr Owens is a lecturer in psychology at Underland University in the UK and points out most of us are susceptible to endorsing some form of false belief; however the longer that belief is held the more it becomes reinforced on a neural level, making it extremely difficult to change.

So it seems no matter what evidence is presented, these conspiracies can never be put to rest.

Well I'm going to attempt to dispel them, with the latest facts as I know them, that stem directly from scientific observation and decades of data and study.

Global warming is not a recent concept, it originated way back in 1895 when the theory of climate change was first discussed by Tyndall, a scientist who demonstrated that certain gases blocked infrared radiation, creating changes in concentrations of gases that could bring a change in climate.

Then in 1896, Arrhenius published his first paper on human emissions of CO2 causing global warming and the research never stopped.

There was Chamberlin in 1896, then Callendar 1938, Phillips 1955, Ewing and Donn 1956, Revellle 1957, Keeling 1960,



Manabe and Wetherald 1967, 1975.

Then a report from the American National Academy of Science in 1979 suggested that high levels of carbon and greenhouse gases will lift global average temperatures by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In 1985, after a century of deliberating, still no preparations were put in place. In the same year, Ramanathan and his colleagues announced it was possible that global warming could come much faster, followed by Villach Conte and fellow scientists, who declared global warming was now inevitable, calling on governments to restrict emissions.

Then the propaganda began in 1990 with our theatrical climate summits, and today we're still chasing our tails. Plenty of rhetoric and so many broken promises.

This might have something to do with governments quietly being ruled by the elite and together they've been more than successful in obstructing any form of climate action. Now that I believe qualifies as a conspiracy!

The world's climate isn't a random process that spontaneously occurs; if it did our meteorologists and climatologists would be out of a job. It's a finely tuned system that our oceans play a significant part in, storing solar radiation and distributing heat and moisture across the planet, that influences our weather systems.

They also play an especially crucial role, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to keep the weather

balanced, but those days are now numbered.

It's been confirmed that our oceans have reached the end of the line after absorbing 93% of our greenhouse gases, meaning they can no longer do their job, and our forests aren't far behind.

Numerous studies on the Amazon have identified it released nearly 20% more carbon dioxide than it absorbed in the last decade. Once considered the lungs of planet Earth, this shocking revelation means humanity can no longer rely on the largest tropical forest to absorb carbon dioxide.

Forests all around the world are struggling with thinning canopies, sudden die-offs, wildfires, unprecedented insect outbreaks and stress from extreme heat and drought and they're not expected to recover.

A new study from Woodwell Climate Research Centre shows a well-defined threshold for trees when temperatures get too high, causing them to exhale CO2 rather than slowing it down.

Back in 1870, the level of CO2 in the atmosphere was 290ppm, in 2019 it was 409ppm and then it leapt to 417.16 the following year. Without our oceans and forests there's nothing left to prevent emissions from climbing, meaning the beginning of the end.

Global warming is a reality, backed up by 125 years of scientific research and a recent report from the UN has shown natural disasters are gaining strength and have grown threefold since 1980.

In 2017 a consensus from over 15,000 scientists was read in parliaments from Canada to Israel, calling for immediate climate action, and in 2019 the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) announced the climate crisis was accelerating, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity.

There was a time when we had faith in our scientists' capabilities, who by the way have always taken a back seat, but since becoming vocal about global warming, they're now a thorn in the side of governments, industry and many in society. Particularly the rich and powerful. So it doesn't stand to reason. Scientists covertly collecting cash? I don't think so. There were no financial gains to be had when last year there was a record number of natural disasters that cost the world \$210 billion.

Believing in a conspiracy can be an easy escape route from the truth, meaning no possibility of negative consequences and no accountability if it doesn't exist.

It certainly doesn't help the cause when mainstream media and governments have gotten away with collectively editing the truth for decades. The actual term 'climate change' is intentionally misleading, a subtle conspiracy in itself.

The UCS was founded in 1969, and is a non-profit science advocacy organisation, with over 11,000 members from 153 nations and their motto: Science for a healthy planet and a safer world. If only we'd done just that!

For all this time the real conspiracy has been, and still is, governments and corporations encouraging society to pathologically consume, in a never-ending cycle of boom and bust, then it's on to greener pastures to do more of the same, destruction. We have an international GDP that is constantly growing, a telling sign, and society isn't about to freely surrender, despite that word extinction being repeated time and time again.

It seems nothing can stop them! They've made up their minds and chosen material possessions over their children and Mother Earth. That's the bottom line. So extinction it is. It's signed, it's sealed. We're just counting down the days.

shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

Shortly the Pyramid Age will be over, and with it the control of few to manage many. It will be taken over by the Space Age, through non-hypocritical teamwork.

In the old order, still existing today, one sat on top of a dynasty, controlling two others, bossing around four, who tell eight what to do, keeping in line sixteen, ordering around thirty-two, all the way to getting the financial benefits of the bottom of the pyramid, working for next to nothing, kissing ass to higher ups.

The pyramid is omnivore, opportunistic, vicious and predatory, the ideal anthropocentric tribal pecking order for a group hunting together: inheritors of King Arthur on top, military to invade other so-called 'inferior' tribes, security to punish transgressors, Earth abused, 'others' mercilessly exploited.

The rewards: one gets to eat, feel special and secure. The cost: terrible laws to keep the triangle together. But that triangle is community: laws have to be fair, the future rosy, the economy sustainable, the environment respected, no impossible hardship for Johnny: it needs egalitarian herbivore sanity.

Pyramids were invented before the wheel. The first wheels were awkward, designed to move heavy blocks, carts for farming, chariots for fighting, stage coaches for mail and transport. The carriage was invented five thousand years ago by Mesopotamians for funerals. Buddha used it to explain the eightfold path. The one thing all old wheels have in common is that they were pretty uncomfortable, hard on butts. Now the rubber wheel is invented, people wish for cushioned rides.

The pyramid structure of society works by making the layer below dependent. If not by economic favours, it is done with military might, unjust laws with powers to quell uprisings. But since the invention of the ball – soccer, rugger, or basketball – people want comfort. Repression will not

do it anymore. Work is not only for bread, or survival; it has to be fun: playful, brilliant, with quick changes in fortune. Keep stadiums spellbound, society entertained.

Pyramids have served evolution and the assumed afterlife well, but dependency has changed. No longer are people easily layered to obey commands, so one can move battalions, conquer nations: minions want quality of life.

People may benefit financially from harvesting minerals on Indigenous grounds, cheap workers in 'developing' nations, but the days of conflict between nations, faiths, tribes, classes, etc, are over. No more

privileged people living off the sweat of other brows.

The next step is uniting the Global Village, before settling exoplanets and trillions of humans in the Milky Way without killing alien

life. That is not achieved by kicking down and kissing up, but by the pyramid becoming airborne. That's a problem with pyramids. They are strong and stable, but stuck in the mud, can't rise. Balloons can.

Nimbin is a balloon. It knows that the future is a renewable, sustainable, ever-changing community. The Age of Having To is coming to an end, replaced by Having Fun. Doing what one likes to, not has to. A pure heart, rather than a sack full of obligations.

Life wasn't meant to be easy Malcolm, but honest and fun.



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The legal profession and global warming

I recently appeared for a mother in an Urgent Defended Hearing in the Federal Circuit Court, my client with me, phone on speaker at 9.30am, Her Honour's voice suddenly there asking for appearances.

I wait a moment for the Applicant's solicitor, because they always go first; silence. I announce my appearance; "Adams, solicitor, Your Honour." She asks if the Applicant is with us. He is, but not his lawyer. Then she asks me what I want.

"That the Application be dismissed, Your Honour."

I explain why, for the record, "Doesn't reach the *Rice v Asplund* threshold." She agrees and dismisses it. The hearing lasts eight minutes, which has to be a record. Legal Aid pays me \$1,600. Not that I hadn't spent hours drafting the Response, supporting Affidavit and Notice of Risk; one has to go through the motions.

Our brilliant result had nothing to do with my forensic skills. The father's case, comprehensively prepared by an employed solicitor on Legal Aid, was unwinnable. When I apply for Aid, I have to certify that my case, arguably, has merit. Here the judge and I have agreed that it was a waste of scarce public resources, but no-one's going to say anything, of course.

"The One Great Principle of the English Law is to make business for itself," says



by John Adams

Mr Vholes, the solicitor, in chapter 39 of *Bleak House* (1893). Dickens had been a court reporter and knew his subject.

A new client says he and his ex-wife have agreed on how to divide their property. Her lawyer tells her she's being ripped off. She doesn't agree. Neither do I. I advise my client to give her the mobile number of a different lawyer.

Last month I mentioned having been emailed an invoice for \$1.5m in Bitcoin. That story ended well. The sheriffs removed the squatters.

I've deleted endless emails urging me to access my Bitcoin account. Curious now, I researched cryptocurrency, but explanations of blockchain involved more complex maths than I was up to. I did discover I could 'future-proof my career with the CBP Certified Blockchain Professional certification.' I've seen YouTube ads for cryptocurrency advisers; it's an industry.

But then, oh dear... I'm directed to an article in the

journal *Nature*; it seems Bitcoin mining can get us to 2 degrees of warming all by itself.

Lawyers drafting documents; wills, binding financial agreements, applications about who a baby's going to be living with for the next 18 years, are supposed to consider all relevant possible future events, like what if A dies before B etc.

I don't know if you have this problem; finding yourself thoughtlessly assuming a future – with the rest of the world – then remembering the climate. Don't know about you, but it dislocates my mind.

We can't blame the employed solicitor, or the inappropriately adversarial one, for colluding in the Great Denial, for using the law to make business for themselves. The once 'honourable profession' is now all about time-billing and marketing and KPIs and salaries and expensive offices where women have to damage their backs wearing impossibly high heels.

Walking across the bridge, past the traffic jam, I imagine them in their millions, on strike with Greta's followers, doing useful things like invading vacant blocks and unproductive ovals with garden forks, building compost heaps, growing food and medicine.

Then I see my colleagues developing their skills in the relevant areas of law.

Ballina Climate Change Policy on exhibition

by Cr Jeff Johnson, Ballina Shire Council

Ballina Shire Council now has a draft Climate Change Policy on public exhibition. This is a major step forward in the push to reduce carbon emissions and to take a more active leadership role in our community.

The new policy aims for Council to have 100% of its electricity usage to be by renewable sources by 2030, and for the overall organisational greenhouse gas emissions to be Net Zero by 2030 as well. This highlights how far local governments have come over the last five years.

Back in 2008 I moved a motion for Ballina Council to aim to become Carbon Neutral. The idea was laughed at by most of the Councillors at the time. It's great to see that Ballina Council is making such a major effort to become a leader in the Northern Rivers on this key issue. The above targets are more ambitious than both the current State and Federal targets.

The aim for net zero by 2030 puts us in line with recent commitments by Tweed and Byron Councils. It's great that our region is leading the way and responding to community sentiment and expectations.

The draft policy indicates that the net zero figure is considered achievable as it focuses on Council's operations and service areas including water and waste, street lighting, community facilities, and planning and development. The draft policy also considers mitigation, adaption and resilience strategies within the community.

A recent audit of Council's facilities and

operations found that electricity consumption currently accounts for about 80% of Council's annual emissions, while fuel consumption sits at 18% and waste management at 2%.

Ballina Council is interested in feedback in relation to whether it should have a community emissions reduction target; what Council's role should be in setting and achieving a community emissions reduction target and how important local climate change action is to you. Feedback is important. The more submissions the Council receives in support, then the greater the focus will be on these key issues. The Community Climate Change Action survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NVLP3SS>

I recently pushed for a dedicated climate change staff member who can drive change throughout all Council operations and departments. While this position wasn't supported the first time I called for it, the majority of Councillors have come around and the position will now be created.

This alone is a huge step forward because it's one thing for Council to have a policy, but it's another to have a dedicated staff member empowered to drive the change within the organisation.

Public feedback on the draft policy and participation in the council's climate change action survey is possible until the 16th June. Please take the time to follow this link and let your voice be heard: www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/ClimateChangeAction

The Draft Policy can be found here: https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/files/250321---Item-8_3---Policy-New---Climate-Change.pdf

Living with solar in a nutshell

by Diana Gosper, Rainbow Power Company

The Rainbow Power Company's Living with Solar course is for enthusiasts and people who have (or intend to have) an off-grid stand-alone home renewable energy system.

Understanding the relationship between Amps, Volts and Watts allows students to quantify their power usage, power availability, and to make informed decisions concerning appropriate lights and appliances.

Sometimes it is a bit like being back at school, but once you settle into it, it's not so much a science exam as a Q&A with a very knowledgeable old friend.

The course is held over two days, the second day is for more specific questions you might have; day one is more general info. There are morning and afternoon breaks as well as a lunch break (kitchen facilities are provided). You might want to bring pen and a notepad to take notes.

Firstly we print out your quote with your system components and then Bruce is able to answer any questions for you that are specific to your system.

Once introductions are made, you will delve right into it, and in our relaxed and informal environment, where no question is a silly question.

Keen on coming to one of our Living with Solar workshops, but don't know what you will learn? This is some of what you might learn, but it is not limited to just this:

- Learn about the minimum necessary components of a system; panels, inverter/charger, MPPT regulator, batteries and wiring.
- An overview of batteries (lithium, wet cell, salt water, lead acid), explaining nominal capacity and useable capacity and the difference between them;
- How to use the smartphone apps and/or a BMV (Battery Monitor Victron)



Living with Solar course co-ordinator, Bruce Davis

to monitor battery depth of discharge and current state of charge;

- An explanation of battery storage vs usage and why it is advisable to run your heavy load items during the day (when the sun is on the panels).
- Learn about shading of panels and different types of panel (polycrystalline, monocrystalline, amorphous), and about panel tilt, best orientation and tracking. Touch on new builds and things to be mindful of to ensure maximum solar uptake.
- Learn about sizing an inverter and staggering your loads, and what to keep in mind if you think you might want to expand your system in the future, including sizing a correct generator.
- Learn what a Volt meter is, and how to use one, while touching on 12/24/48v power systems and the difference between them (and why you might want or need one over the other).
- An explanation of the function of the controller (MPPT or Maximum Power Point Tracking) which goes between the panels and the batteries to basically open/close the charge as needed).
- Learn what your inverter does; put simply it converts DC to AC and changes low voltage up to high voltage when needed.
- Learn the formula to work out the Watts something is using to run (Watts equals Volts x Amps) and about the language you need to know for determining

usage. For example, a 2W fan on for 6 hours, (2W x 6hrs) = 12Whrs, introducing the concept of Whrs.

- Learn how to read solar radiation figures (peak sun hours) from the BOM website, which can then inform you of how many solar panels you need for a system.
- An explanation of DC (direct current) vs AC (alternating current). Basically, DC flows in one direction and AC constantly changes direction.
- Methods for measuring the DC voltage drop under a given set of circumstances and understanding wiring sizes and acceptable cabling (single, double, twin-sheathed, in series or parallel).
- Some basic and common terminology and derivatives: PV = photovoltaic; Ampacity = amp carrying capacity; LED = light emitting diode.
- Briefly touch on hydro and wind power (which RPC no longer supply) and solar-powered pumps.
- Learn how to quickly shut down your system and how to check your circuit breakers and fuses.
- Tips on fridges and washing machines and other typical household appliances you might want to run, computers (laptops take way less than a desktop computer!) and how to check ratings and spec sheets.

Is it worth the \$295? Absolutely. In any case, it is included for free in your off-grid system purchase from RPC, because we want your system to last as long as possible, and for you to get the most out of it for many years to come.

If you are interested in attending an upcoming course, just give us a call on 02 6689-1430, or an email, or fill out the registration form on the website: rpc.com.au

The contents of the Living with Solar course will eventually be up on the RPC website and YouTube page.

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Porter and the boyz club

by Warwick Fry

East Timor! The rape of a nascent nation, morally, legally, ethically, as well as physiologically, when you include the genocidal casualty rate, estimated at 200,000 – more as a percentage of population than Pol Pot. Rape, with Australia’s turning its blind eye and giving the nod to the Indonesian invasion of 1975 and constant attempts to airbrush the enormity of the ongoing violation of a vulnerable people for the next 25 years amounting to collaboration in the political gang bang.

1999 was supposed to mark Australia’s recognition of East Timor (now known as Timor Leste) as a sovereign nation; something that had been advocated in the UN since the 1970s. But the economic rapine continued for another 20 years.

Australia’s recognition of Timorese sovereignty did not extend to recognition of the seabed boundary, which included the ‘Timor Gap’. Australia gave ‘de jure’ recognition to Indonesia’s seizure of East Timor, paving the way to exploit the seabed resources in favour of both nations leaving the Timorese out altogether. Gareth Evans signed off on the deal, complete with champagne, in 1989.

1999, and Timorese sovereignty threw a very large spanner in the legal works. The ‘Gap’ suddenly became a gaping legal hole, its rich resource fields nearing empty. But there was more another field, ‘Greater Sunrise’ sent its siren calls to Australia, dizzy at the thought of more filthy lucre. But the Timorese needed money and wanted a border. They settled for money and signed a Treaty with Australia.

But the Australian Security and Intelligence Service (ASIS) bugged the offices where the negotiations were taking place (under the guise of an Australian ‘Foreign Aid’ project). This grubby act was at the behest of the Howard government, specifically under the dull hand of Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

‘Witness K’, one of the spies, believed the bugging was unethical and went beyond the ASIS brief of ‘National Security’. He saw that the intervention was more in the interests of ‘commercial security’ particularly when he realised that Downer was lobbying for Woodside, the multinational company exploiting the seabed resources.

The newly independent Timor-Leste government was horrified when the bugging became clear, and took Australia, kicking and

screaming, to the International Court in The Hague. The gloves were off.

Suddenly, the ‘rule of law’ claimed by Morrison and Porter to shelter their behaviour starts to look like a fig-leaf cover to a lot of indecent exposure. Which is where Bernard Collaery comes in. He is a former Attorney General for the ACT, and as an approved lawyer for the intelligence community, was recommended to act for Witness K.

Witness K was about to take his evidence to The Hague (where Collaery was waiting) when his passport was cancelled, he was put under house arrest, and Collaery’s office in Canberra was raided (SWAT Squad style) to ensure that the evidence would not arrive at the Court.

Both Collaery and Witness K have been involved in the process of long, dragged-out prosecutions. The fourth year has begun. Both have had their careers wrecked by the legal process that has been blocked by the Attorney General of the government under the excuse of ‘National Security’. Porter has used his powers of Attorney General to both delay the hearings and insist that they continue behind ‘closed doors’. Michaelia Cash follows suit.

The Collaery prosecution is ‘bringing it all back home’: the perversion of the justice system to exploit the people of East Timor; the question of whether Porter is a ‘fit and proper person’ to be the Attorney General; and the legal persecution of Witness K and Bernard Collaery.

It reflects the mindset of the ‘Porters’ in power. It is a reflection of the on-going stripping down of Civil rights in the name of ‘National Security’ over the years since 9/11. It is increasingly obvious that the ‘National Security’ issue, the stronger laws and harassment of outspoken journalists and whistle-blowers is a creeping trend based on false assumptions of entitlement.

The silencing of Witness K and Bernard Collaery is based on the fear that the international community would see unveiled the seediness, corruption and naked greed of agents like John Howard, Alexander Downer, and their collaborators in the exploitation and persecution of the privileged against the underprivileged.

Porter is very much a part of this. The gender issues have finally exposed the sociopolitical rot in the heart of conservative Australian politics. And perhaps this issue should be taken into account when at last attention is being drawn to the influence of the ‘old boy network’ and ‘the men’s club’ by the Porter case and the “me too” exposures of members of the judiciary.

Roadside drama teaching

by Michael Balderstone

Losing your driving licence for three months is a massive punishment, especially for country people. Incomparable to the cautions police give you for possession of up to fifteen grams of pot.

The drug driving rules were introduced to catch truckies on speed, as I remember, but instead they’re catching tons of stoner dolphins in their shark nets. Did they know what they were doing, was this ever their intention? I’m never sure and want to believe we are nicer than that. And endlessly proved wrong!

Whichever way you look at it, they’ve stumbled onto a lethal weapon against pot smokers and the RDT highway patrol cars are using it to full advantage. Except their manual is way out of date. I’ve heard a number of stories about them chasing Kombi drivers at MardiGrass, frantically passing other cars to pull them over to test their saliva.

Fact is 42 Kombis were in the Konvoy, but most of them were \$100,000 rigs bought cheap off hippies decades ago and now owned by wealthy collectors, who never smoke weed and maybe never did! Funny.

They tested about 1500 people over the MardiGrass weekend for 29 positives. Doug was two of them. He smoked a joint Thursday night at home and tested positive driving into Nimbin Friday around midday. Didn’t smoke again and then driving in Sunday morning tested positive again, more than 60 hours later. No wonder people are so angry.

There may well be more busted because the third test in the lab, when they send your saliva away, pretty much catches everyone who’s had a



toke in days perhaps, measuring down to 5 nanograms of THC, that’s 5 parts per billion. No-one seems to know exactly how long after a smoke it is until you have less than 5 nanograms in your saliva. And is it different for every body?

The only way I know to find out your reading is to plead not guilty, then they tell you how many nanograms you had in your spit sample. I had 1250 they said, which was over an hour after a joint. 250 times over the limit! Would love to know the numbers and how long after using from anyone else who has pleaded not guilty.

The cop who booked me agreed on court day I did not appear impaired. It’s my daily medicine, what I’m used to. I’m more likely impaired without it.

Anyway I digress, this is what is important. If you get busted for drug driving you will in all probability get a letter in the mail with an \$1100 fine and asking you to surrender your licence for three months. Unless you were impaired, I suggest you turn over the letter and take the option to appeal the conviction.

You will then be sent a court appearance date and then you can state your case of why you use cannabis and that you were not impaired and hopefully the magistrate respects your choice of medicine and lets you keep driving, and gives you no fine, or at least much less than \$1100. I’m sure it would help if you have been approved for legal weed.

I suggest you write a letter to

the magistrate spelling out your circumstances and cannabis use. They know this is nothing to do with impairment as much as the police do, but they have more discretion in their rule book.

The Roadside Drug Testing regime is a terrific example of bad laws breeding disrespect and disorder. We know Big Pharma will do whatever it takes to keep weed illegal to maximise their profits, but also now I realise, bit slow, the insurance companies also love this drug war.

Any accident and your blood shows even a skerrick of any illegal drug and some, maybe even most insurers, just walk away. Some still have “impairment” not presence as the test, but fact is, weed stays in your blood for months.

Unlike all the other illegal drugs, cannabis is fat soluble and our body hangs onto it. Our endocannabinoid system loves it. It can remain in our saliva for days it seems, in our urine for weeks, and in our blood for months. Nothing to do with impairment, just presence.

My guess, in the near future cannabis users will be allowed to drive, but only if they have legal weed. They know how to coerce us in the direction they want. Like we may be needing “proof of jab” to go into the pub soon. Will it be a mark on our forehead?

If you got busted for drug driving at MardiGrass, or in fact anywhere, please contact the HEMP Embassy.

The joys of the sixties revolution

by Jazmin Theodore

From 1955 right through to the early sixties, it was a very bleak time.

Around 1958, things started to change very slowly. Everything was suppressed, but a huge part of the population was very dissatisfied, and people started to stand up for themselves and demand something better.

Gradually all the young men who had been called up to fight in the Vietnam war were suddenly coming together and gathering 44-gallon drums, putting holes in the sides and setting a fire inside the drum; then one by one they’d walk up and throw their call-up papers for the army into the fire. It was an incredible ritual and suddenly there were calls for War No More.

It was such a draconian time because if you were on the street at 7 o’clock the police wanted to know where you were going, where you worked etc. We’d be walking along the street, the police would pull us over and say, “What are you doing on the street at this hour? Where are you going? Where have you been?”

They’d say, “What’s your name?” I said, “Elizabeth.” And they’d say, “What’s your last name?” and I’d say, “Regina,” and the idiots would write it down! They’d say, “Where do you live?” I’d give them some address. Then they’d say, “Where do you

work at?” I’d say, “Walkers and Turners.” And when they’d go I’d say walk the streets and turn the corners!

And then they’d say to Theresa, who was a boy, “What’s your name Wombat?” He’d say, “John Dory,” and they’d say, “Where do you live at, Wombat?” And he’d say, “Barracuda Avenue, Fishermen’s Bend.”

I had psychic abilities even as a child. I used to freak my family out. I didn’t fully understand it, but Rosaleen Norton, the witch of King’s Cross, made me realise how psychic I was. I often knew that there was danger around the corner. If I said, “There’s the Jacks (that’s what everyone called the police in those days) around the corner,” we’d retrieve our steps and check from the other end of the street, and sure enough there they’d be.

Around 1958, there were really big changes in the air and everyone was wanting something better. Can you imagine, it was illegal for men to have long hair? And in those days I was dressed as a woman, had my hair long.. When I look back at those times I can’t believe things were that way.

The first man who grew his hair was beaten up by police and yobbos in front of everyone, and suddenly groups of people came together in the Cross, we demanded something better. Can you imagine being an outlaw because

you wanted to express yourself the way you wanted to?

1964 was the Year of the Dragon, and the Chinese say the dragons are the kings of the heavens. And tigers are the queens of the earth. Suddenly in 1964, the star of hope shone really beautifully on the revolution. There was a rumour around that banana skin got you high and the governments of the day were in a scramble to deal with it! The boys at school were all growing their hair long just like The Beatles and getting expelled for it...

The Beatles came to Australia in 1964. One day I was walking along McLeay Street, Potts Point opposite the Chevron Hotel, and there were hundreds upon hundreds of young women screaming and the four Beatles were standing up out on the balcony. The screaming was deafening, and I pushed my way to the front with a friend, and screamed out, “John, George, I love you!”

The music of that time was mind-blowing. All the songs of revolution and love... it was beautiful to watch the essence of it.

If a coffee shop closed down in the Cross or Darlinghurst, we’d rent the place and start our own club, with all walks of people, not just gay and lesbians, all alternative-minded people came together. The police would close us down and we’d find another place.

One night these two women that I knew

said, “We’re going down to meet some sailors, do you want to come with us?” I said, “Alright,” so we went down to a pub in Elizabeth Street in Sydney, one of the few pubs you could have a late night drink at. We were with three lovely English sailors and we all came out of the pub drunk.

I squatted in the gutter, having a wee, and two coppers pulled up in a car and said what are you doing you dirty little strumpet? I said, “I’m pregnant and I need to wee.” They said, “Get in the car,” and threw me in, and the sailor who I was with said, “Hey mate, you can’t do that, she’s with me.” They said, “Oh you want to come too, do you mate?”

When they jumped out again to confront this sailor, I jumped out of the car, ran across the road and into the park and the two detectives chased me. The younger one knocked me to the ground and I swung onto my back, brought my legs right back up and kicked him in the face with my high heels. Then I jumped up and kept running, but the older copper tackled me and brought me down.

Then they took me to the central police cells and charged me and said, “She’s a real terror this one.” The uniformed copper on the desk said, “Hey mate, that’s Julie from the Jewel Box. He’s a poofter, dressed as a woman.”

I left in 1969 to go overseas and I was back for ten months in 73 and 74, but then I had nothing much to do with the Cross, though I used to go to the clubs sometimes.

Open Mic on the verandah

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

We hadn't held an Open Mic under the cover of The Channon Tavern verandah since pre-Covid, but given the weather reports for a high likelihood of rain, we opted to do just that.

I'm always good with that – no gazebos to put up and pack down and no power cables to run out. As it turned out there was no rain. The inside venue is more intimate than on the lawn, though seating is limited.

There was a good roll-up of performers kicked off by a set from four-piece band, The Tides followed by Andy with some original tunes, then Glen and Di on duelling mandolins with Jack on bass.

Toby did a few rocky numbers with myself on



Second generation local, Saadi

drums, then we heard from first-timer Shane, with some original songs, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar. Anne Mac recited a couple of poems and sang us a traditional Irish song.

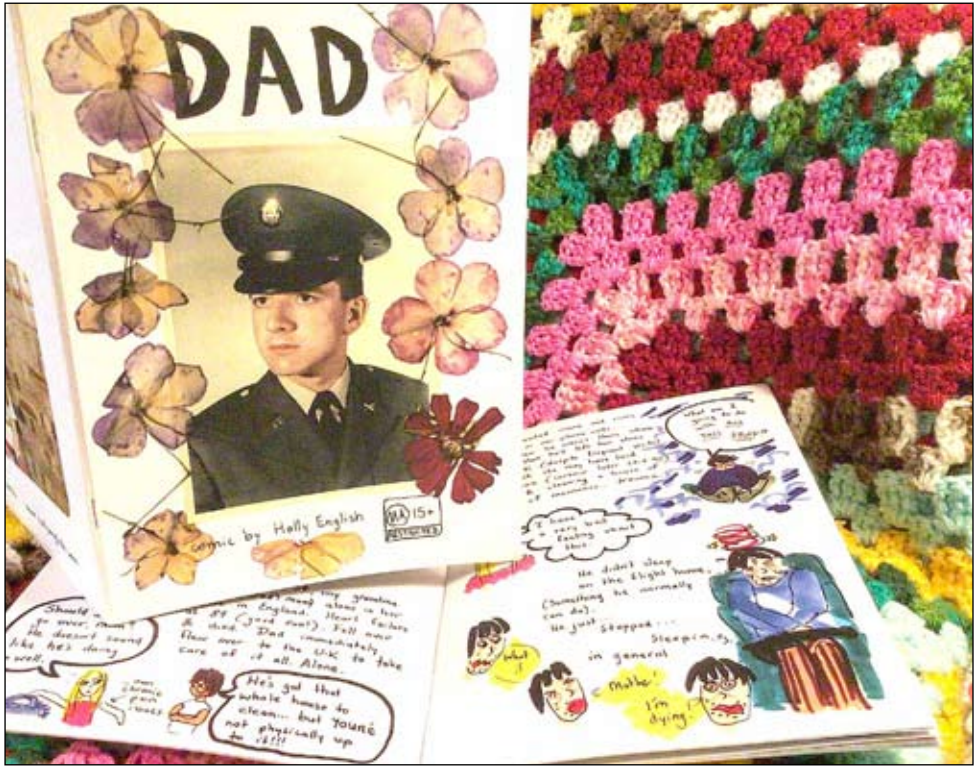
Kev was up next, looking like an outlaw from a John Wayne movie in a wild black leather outfit and playing some Texas blues with some help from Arti on drums and Jack on bass.



Shane's first time

All in all, a successful afternoon. Next month's Open Mic will be Sunday 27th June. Don't forget to get on the mailing list if you want to receive a reminder the week before. Just email me at: thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com

The Tavern restaurant will serve meals from 11am to 3.30pm and 5pm to 8pm, and is a Covid-safe venue.



New comic book launched

Holly English is a long-time Byron Bay contemporary artist, comic creator, cartoonist and film photographer.

She has been shortlisted for The Ledger Awards (Australian Comics Award) and twice for the Broken Pencil International Zine Awards in Canada (comic section).

Her new comic book Dad tells the story of the horror and hope Holly experiences as her dad is thrust into a double diagnosis of Parkinsons disease, then full-blown psychosis.

What do you do when your not-quite-old father becomes psychotic? What happens when the medical establishment and his

(third) wife turn a blind eye?

This is her dad who voted Trump and is openly racist. The dad she never lived with. The dad she never really understood. What happens when you become his carer?

The comic actually started as a chapter in Holly's graphic novel, however, like her previous comic Grace, it's ended up an entity unto itself with a self-published release.

Dad is an A5, 24-page colour comic book, printed on 100% recycled paper at Holly's local printers in Bangalow. The cost is \$20 (includes postage worldwide), and it is available at: www.hollyenglish.com

Bowlo Music in June

by Mel Williamson

It's warm and cosy in the Bowlo, with some great winter-warming music for June.

The Green Keepers Bistro is open for delicious dinner 5-8pm Wednesday to Saturday. Phone 6689-1473 for bookings.

- Entertainment coming up:
- Thursday 10th June: Open Mic
 - Friday 11th June: Dave Barbara and Michael Skinner (pictured)
 - Friday 18th June: Freowin Harper
 - Thursday 24th June: Open Mic
 - Friday 25th June: Vincent



- Friday 2nd July: Nina Lotus
- All gigs start at 6pm, with the fortnightly Open Mic kicking off slightly later at 6.30pm – musicians, poets and comedians all welcome for Open Mics. See you at the Bowlo.



Photo: LisaG Photography

Timbuktu play Dunoon on long weekend

Like the ancient city, Timbuktu plays grooves that come from far away.

Taking you on a polyrhythmic journey through afrobeat, highlife, Malian blues, Ethio-jazz and more, Timbuktu fuse traditional music styles from across the African continent.

After the live-music graveyard of 2020, Timbuktu are bursting to get back on stage. "We are very excited to play together again after a lengthy hiatus since the COVID lockdown last year," front man Joe O'Keeffe said. "It's very lonely playing music by yourself in an empty room!"

"We can't wait to bring some vibes, polyrhythm and dance back to the Dunoon

Sports club."

The full 8-piece line-up includes Joe O'Keeffe (guitar/vocals), Cameron Smith (trumpet), Byron Christie (baritone sax), Julian Smith (flute), Brent Calcutt (keyboards), Anthony Mitchell (bass), Rod Evans (percussion) and Benji Keogh (drums).

See Timbuktu at the Dunoon Sports Club on Saturday 12th June from 7.30pm. Tickets: \$15 non-members; \$10 members. Book on-line at: www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=752590 For restaurant bookings, phone 0402-308-307.

See more of Timbuktu at: www.facebook.com/timbuktumusic

Great entertainment at The Regent

The Regent Theatre, Murwillumbah has a great line-up for June in its newly renovated art deco building.

The Balcony Sessions showcase quality musicians in a beautiful acoustic setting on The Regent's alfresco all-weather balcony, while also offering the best in food and drinks.

- Every Friday night from 6-8pm, entry by donation.
- 11th June: Mykaela Jay;
 - 18th June: Bill Jacobi;
 - 25th June: Sebastian Winter; and
 - 2nd July: Sali Bracewell.

Charlie Chaplin – live cinema

Saturday 12th June, 8pm. Tickets \$30/\$25 from: <https://the-regent.com.au/special-events> Asian street food and a licensed bar from 6pm.

World Refugee Day

The world premiere of *Scattered People* will be held on Sunday 20th June, 2pm



at The Regent Cinema. Tickets \$15, available at The Regent or online at: <https://the-regent.com.au/special-events> Book now for this special event and support the Uki Refugee Project with its important work.

Monthly Comedy Nights

Mandy Nolan presents the best of stand up comedy every month with Harlequin Nights at The Regent, starting on Thursday 1st July, from 7.30pm.

Mandy Nolan is funny, fearless and very clever; her peers regularly declare her one of the strongest comedic

talents in the country. She will be MC'ing on the night and presenting some very funny comedians.

Tickets \$25/\$20 from: <https://the-regent.com.au/special-events> Dinner and licensed bar available from 6pm.

The Loveys album launch

Heroic, hilarious and hip grown-up girl band, The Loveys are launching their new album, *Loveys Actually* at The Regent, Murwillumbah on Friday 2nd July 2 at 8pm.

Tickets \$35/\$30/\$25 from: <https://the-regent.com.au/special-events>

